

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REACTION, OCTOBER 15

1. CAIRO PRESS OCTOBER 15 GAVE LESS PLAY THAN YESTERDAY TO STORIES ON US INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT MIDEAST WAR.
2. ON FRONT PAGE, LOWER LEFT SIDE, AL-AHRAM PUBLISHED ONE-COLUMN AP REPORT QUOTING NEW VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE FORD "US IS CERTAINLY FULFILLING ALL COMMITMENTS TOWARD ISRAEL" AND US AID WILL BE "EXTREMELY LARGE."
3. IN MIDDLE, BOTTOM OF FRONT PAGE, ONE-COLUMN WIRE SERVICE REPORT FROM KUWAIT STATED SEVEN ARAB OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES WILL CONVENE TUESDAY TO DISCUSS "OIL ROLE IN BATTLE."
4. WIRE SERVICE STORY IN MIDDLE OF FRONT PAGE COVERED "ISRAELI CEASEFIRE CAMPAING" IN LONDON. STORY CONTINUED INSIDE QUOTED OFFICIAL US SOURCES IN WASHINGTON AS SAYING "THAT US IS READY TO MEDIATE FOR MIDEAST CEASEFIRE THAT WOULD KEEP FIGHTING FORCES "WHERE THEY ARE NOW." REPORT CONTINUED: "IT SEEMS, ACCORDING TO US SOURCES, THAT

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KISSINGER HAD SUGGESTED THIS FORMULA DURING TALKS WITH

ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN AND THAT FORMULA WAS SUBJECT OF ACTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. CHANGE IN NIXON GOVERNMENT STAND IN THIS RESPECT IS DUE TO US FEARS THAT ESCALATING MIDEAST SITUATION MAY LEAD TO CONFRONTATION THAT WOULD END US-USSR DENTENTE, AND WOULD PROBABLY CAUSE GREAT DAMAGE TO NATO ITSELF."

5. AL-AHRAM LOCAL PAGE PUBLISHED ON LOWER LEFT SIDE EXCLUSIVE TWO-COLUMN STORY BY "AL-AHRAM'S DIPLOMATIC REPORTER "THAT EGYPT VOICED TO GREEK, TURKISH AND SPANISH REPRESENTATIVES IN CAIRO CONCERN THAT US RECONNAISSANCE PLANES USE NATO BASES (IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES) AND THAT VOLUNTEERS WISHING TO JOIN ISRAELI ARMED FORCES GATHER IN THOSE BASES."

6. EDITORIAL COLUMNIST ALI HAMDI EL-GAMMAL DEBATED WITH PRIME MINISTER MEIR SAYING THAT SOVIET ARMS TO ARABS ARE FOR "LIBERATING ARAB LANDS AND SAVING ARAB DIGNITY;" WHILE US ARMS TO ISRAEL ARE FOR "AGGRESSION AND EXPANSION."

7. IN AL-AKHBAR, TWO FRONT-PAGE, ONE-COLUMN, MIDDLE-BOTTOM ITEMS PERTAINED TO US; (1) AFP STORY FROM WASHINGTON STATED THAT "US SUGGESTED CEASEFIRE AND FIGHTING FORCES STAND-FAST WHERE THEY ARE." ITEM ENDED WITH PAPER'S TWO-LINE COMMENT "WE WILL NOT STOP FIGHTING BEFORE FULL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL." (2) WIRE SERVICE REPORT ABOUT US "OIL CIRCLES" WARNINGS AGAINST NIXON'S CONTINING AID TO ISRAEL. IRAQ, STORY ADDED, WILL SUGGEST AT TUESDAY KUWAIT CONFERENCE NATIONALIZING US SHARES AS IRAQ DID.

8. A BRIEF ITEM IN AL-GUMHURIYYA'S FRONT-PAGE CENTER QUOTED PAPER'S "MILITARY REPORTER" THAT US SR-71 PLANES FLOWN FROM US CARRIER BASED IN NO-NAVIGATION WATERS SOUTH OF CYPRUS. A FRONT-PAGE, TWO-COLUMN, MIDDLE-BOTTOM UPI, REUTER REPORT FROM WASHINGTON STATED THAT US ARMS ARE BEING SHIPPED TO ISRAEL "IN TIGHT SECRECY."

9. AL-GUMHURIYYA'S FOREIGN PAGE'S SECOND LEAD STORY (THREE COLUMNS) DEALT WITH US SUGGESTION "TO END FIGHTING AND WITHDRAW TROOPS;" AS WELL AS ARAB REFUSAL OF ANY SOLUTION EXCEPT "ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL OCCUPIED LANDS." STORY IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTRIBUTED TO WIRE SERVICES IN WASHINGTON, BONN AND BRUSSELS. SMITH

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